

the measurement—108 mm.—given by Dr. W. MacGillivray, *The Emu*, vol. 27, 1927, p. 67, for a young bird leaving the nest. The description obtained of the bird suggests a juvenile or a hen bird rather than an adult cock.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Nesting of the Pied Cormorant off Rottnest Island.**—I am indebted to a friend, Mr. B. Killington, for the following information on an apparently new, or at least unrecorded, breeding colony of the Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*). On May 16, 1949, a small colony of the Pied Cormorant was observed nesting on Dyer's Island, off the south coast of Rottnest Island. There were approximately 40 nests evident, but some were empty. The nestlings present were well developed, seeming to indicate that the breeding season was well advanced. There were about 30 young birds in the nests with about 60 adult birds in attendance, though this count of adults does not take into consideration those that may have been out foraging.

—DON REID, Wembley.

**Marsh Terns Feeding in Association with Little Grebes.**—On July 31, 1949 I visited Coolungup Lake (White Lake), East Rockingham, for the purpose of taking a census of the duck population. Though I had made a number of visits to the lake between March and July and had seen a few Grebes, I was surprised to see on this visit approximately 60 Little Grebes (*Podiceps novaehollandiae*) and two Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) in a close feeding flock. There was also a number of terns—probably Marsh Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*)—diving into the water around the grebes. At first I thought the terns were attacking the grebes but apparently all these birds were feeding on a similar food item which must have been very abundant or the grebes, when diving, disturbed food sought after by the terns.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, "Yanjettee," Coolup.

**Young Ducks Leaving Elevated Nests.**—My personal experience of observing wild ducks transporting their young from high nests differs from that recorded in the last issue of the *Naturalist* (p. 44). In early October, three years ago, I watched a female Black Duck transport four young ones from a nest about 30 feet up a big tree stump in a gravel pit about three miles from here. The duck alighted on the edge of the nest hole and backed half-way into the nest. A young duck then climbed on to the mother's back and sprawled its feet well into the mother's back feathers. The mother then launched herself and flew with the young one to a pool about a hundred yards away. I watched her carry four in this manner, there being already several in the pool.

A friend, Mr. George Turner, of Yarloop, told me that he has also witnessed this action, but in this instance the three young were being carried about a quarter of a mile.

—W. MILES, "Brooklyn Ridge," Wagerup.